

Citizenship education: Foundations of Indonesian nationalism and democracy

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Keywords: Citizenship Education, Nationalism, Democracy, Values.</p>	<p>Nationalism and democracy are two crucial aspects in building a strong and sovereign country. Citizenship education has the potential to become the main means of forming nationalist awareness and strengthening democratic values among Indonesian society. This research aims to examine the role of citizenship education in building the foundations of nationalism and democracy in Indonesia. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The research results show that the implementation of citizenship education has a significant impact in forming nationalist awareness and democratic participation among Indonesia's young generation. Respondents stated that through PKN learning, they better understand the values of Pancasila, their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as the importance of participation in political and social life. These results confirm that citizenship education plays an important role in forming strong national character and identity and improving the quality of participation in democracy, which is a crucial aspect in building a sovereign and just nation.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

Citizenship Education (PKN) is a fundamental pillar in developing the character of Indonesia's young generation. Through PKN, nationalist values are not only taught, but also deeply instilled in students from an early age. By understanding the history, culture and diversity of the Indonesian nation, students can develop a sense of love and pride for their homeland (Rahmatiani, 2020). Apart from that, PKN also provides a forum for the formation of strong morals and ethics, forming individuals who are responsible, tolerant and have high social awareness. PKN development is very important in ensuring that Indonesia's young generation can become agents of change who contribute positively to the future progress of the nation and state (Nadya & Adhari, 2022).

Citizenship Education (PKN) has a very important goal in forming the character and identity of Indonesian citizens. First, PKN aims to create citizens who have strong state insight (Zulfikar & Dewi, 2021). Through understanding the government system, constitution and basic values of the country, the younger generation can become informed agents of change and actively participate in nation building. Apart from that, PKN also aims to instill a sense of love for the country and pride as Indonesian citizens in students (Narimo

et al, 2019). By understanding Indonesia's history, culture and diversity, they can develop a strong and responsible national identity.

PKN aims to provide knowledge about students' rights and obligations in life in society and the state. Through a deep understanding of the rights and responsibilities as citizens, students can internalize the values of democracy, justice and togetherness in everyday life (Winataputra, 2015). Citizenship education also has an important role in fostering a strong sense of nationalism and moral values. By strengthening awareness of moral and ethical norms, students can become individuals with integrity, responsibility and care for the welfare of society at large (Pratiwi et al, 2020). Thus, PKN plays a crucial role in forming a young generation who is competent, ethical and contributes positively to the progress of the Indonesian nation.

In this digital era, the dominance of technology and social media has attracted students' attention, causing the potential for direct interaction with national and moral values to be neglected (Towaf, 2014). Therefore, PKN is a crucial means for developing awareness of national identity, democratic values, and responsibility as citizens. Through citizenship education, students can be guided to understand the importance of contributing to society, respecting cultural diversity, and building a participatory and critical attitude in national and state life (Hadi & Bayu, 2021). In this way, PKN is not only a complement to the educational curriculum, but also an effective solution in facing modern-day challenges faced by students in using technology.

Citizenship education has a significant role in providing knowledge to students about their rights and obligations as Indonesian citizens (Insani et al, 2021). With a deep understanding of the rights and responsibilities that exist within the framework of the rule of law, students can apply these principles in their daily lives. This provides a strong foundation for them to act responsibly, maintain social order, and respect the rights of other individuals and groups (Totok, 2018).

Apart from that, a good understanding of rights and obligations also helps students to develop resilience to negative information that is widely spread, both through social media and other media (Utomo et al, 2023). By critically sorting and evaluating the information they receive, they become better able to differentiate between valid information and information that is manipulative or detrimental. Thus, citizenship education not only provides a foundation of knowledge, but also prepares students to become intelligent, responsible and critical citizens in responding to various situations in society (Wulandari et al, 2023).

Citizenship education has a very important role in fostering a sense of nationalism and moral values in all students from an early age. Through teaching about Indonesian history, culture and diversity, students are given the opportunity to understand and internalize the meaning of nationality and develop a sense of love and pride for their homeland (Amalia & Najicha, 2022). Apart from that, Citizenship Education also provides opportunities for students to learn moral values which are the foundation for the formation of good character. By understanding and practicing values such as honesty, tolerance and

cooperation, students are expected to become individuals with integrity and responsibility in living their lives (Andara et al, 2021).

Furthermore, through citizenship education, the goal of forming students' personalities into complete human beings in accordance with the mandate of the 1945 Constitution can be realized. This education not only aims to develop students' cognitive aspects, but also affective and psychomotor aspects (Desti, 2017). By understanding the values of humanity, justice and diversity, students are invited to become individuals who have high moral awareness and a strong sense of nationalism. Thus, citizenship education is one of the main instruments in producing a young generation who are religious (moral) and have a strong commitment to nation and state development in accordance with the spirit of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Padilah & Dewi, 2021).

The aim of this research is to explore the important role of citizenship education in forming the foundations of nationalism and democracy in Indonesia. Through a better understanding of the contribution of citizenship education, it is hoped that effective strategies and policies can be identified to increase the effectiveness of citizenship education in shaping the positive character and attitudes of young Indonesian citizens, so that they can make a positive contribution to the development of a more inclusive and democratic society.

METHOD

Research like this, known as qualitative research, has a focus on carefully understanding the phenomena experienced by the subject. In this context, qualitative research explores various aspects of the subject's behavior, perceptions, motivations and actions, using natural methods appropriate to the context (Moleong, 2014). For example, this research, which falls into the category of descriptive research, aims to gather comprehensive information about a particular problem or condition, with the main goal of gaining an in-depth understanding of the topic being investigated. Researchers rely on primary data from sources in the field of political sociology as the main basis for research, while secondary data, or social reality data, is obtained through various sources, including direct observation in the field and media such as newspapers and discussions (Sugiyono, 2011). Through a combination of primary and secondary data, this research aims to provide a comprehensive picture and in-depth understanding of the phenomenon being researched, with the ultimate aim of providing accurate and systematic information about the object or subject of the research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Citizenship education is not just subject matter at school, but is also an important tool for the formation of a democratic spirit and understanding of human rights among the younger generation. To make this happen, systematic and comprehensive efforts are needed from the government and educational institutions. They must work together to disseminate citizenship education in an interesting and exciting way, so that students not only take part in lessons, but also actively participate in learning. Through creative and innovative

approaches, such as the use of digital technology, educational games, or collaborative projects, students can more easily engage and understand important civic concepts (Berlian & Dewi, 2021)

Apart from that, citizenship education also needs to be combined with mastery of science and technology. As time goes by, understanding politics, democracy and human rights can no longer be separated from understanding technology and science. Therefore, integration between citizenship education and mastery of science and technology is very important. In this way, future generations can be equipped with comprehensive knowledge and relevant skills to make significant contributions to nation building, both in local and global contexts. Through this approach, it is hoped that a generation will be created that not only has high civic awareness, but will also become agents of change who are able to face the challenges of the times with a critical and solution attitude (Haris, 2017).

The implementation of Citizenship Education (PKN) which is carried out from elementary school (SD) to tertiary (PT) levels indicates the importance of forming the character of Indonesian citizens from an early age until adulthood. Through a structured curriculum, students are introduced to basic concepts regarding the state, government, the rights and obligations of citizens, as well as the moral values that underlie national life. At the elementary school level, PKN is focused on a simple understanding of national identity, cultural diversity, and basic values such as mutual cooperation and tolerance. Meanwhile, at higher levels such as middle school, high school and college, the deepening of these concepts is carried out at a higher level of complexity in accordance with students' intellectual development. The main aim of organizing PKN is to create citizens who are intelligent, good, and have a high awareness of their role in nation building and supporting the sustainability of the country in all aspects of life.

Apart from that, through the implementation of comprehensive PKN, it is hoped that a young generation will be created that has a strong commitment to the sustainability of the nation and state. By understanding their rights and obligations as Indonesian citizens, students are expected to be able to become proactive agents of change in maintaining social stability, fighting for justice and respecting human rights. Apart from that, PKN also equips students with a deep understanding of the democratic system and responsible political participation, so that they are able to contribute positively to the process of democratization and nation building. Thus, the implementation of PKN from elementary to tertiary institutions is an important part in forming the character and identity of Indonesian citizens who are strong and globally competitive. Top of Form

At the tertiary level, the substance of Citizenship Education (PKN) has objectives that include developing students' personalities so that they are consistent in realizing the basic values of Pancasila, as well as fostering a sense of pride and love for their country. Through a deep understanding of the principles of Pancasila and national identity, students are expected to be able to integrate these values into all aspects of campus and community life. Apart from that, PKN in higher education also aims to help students understand, develop and apply science, technology and art responsibly. In this way, students not only

develop academically, but also morally and culturally, so that they are able to become agents of positive change in society.

Through PKN learning in higher education, it is hoped that the character of the Indonesian nation will be formed which is critical, active, democratic and aware of their rights and obligations as citizens. By studying PKN, students are invited to become individuals who are open-minded, have high political awareness, and are able to participate constructively in the democratic process. If every citizen applies these characteristics in everyday life, then Indonesia has the potential to become the most democratic nation and realize human rights perfectly. Thus, the implementation of PKN in higher education has a strategic role in forming the next generation who has integrity, responsibility, and contributes positively to the progress of the nation and state.

The role of citizenship education in forming the foundations of nationalism and democracy in Indonesia is very important and includes the following things:

1. Forming National Identity

Citizenship education has a crucial role in strengthening national identity among Indonesia's young generation. Through teaching the basic values of Pancasila, history and Indonesian culture, students are given the opportunity to know, understand and internalize the values that are the foundation of the nation. By studying Pancasila, they learn about the principles of morals, justice, democracy, unity and humanity which are the basis for social life. In addition, understanding Indonesian history and culture helps students feel the depth of this nation's journey, as well as appreciate the diversity and plurality that are the richness of Indonesian culture. Through this learning process, students are given the opportunity to cultivate a sense of love and pride for their homeland, as well as strengthen awareness of the importance of the unity and unity of the Indonesian nation as part of a strong national identity.

By strengthening this national identity, citizenship education also has a positive impact in forming the character of the younger generation who is committed to the sustainability of the country. They not only feel like separate individuals, but as an integral part of the national unity who are responsible for the development and progress of the country. This strengthens social solidarity and fosters a spirit of mutual cooperation in maintaining the integrity of the country. In addition, with an awareness of a strong national identity, the younger generation tends to have more potential to be actively involved in the nation-building process, both through political participation and contributions in various fields of development, thereby encouraging the realization of a more dynamic, inclusive and progressive society together. -The same.

2. Instilling Democratic Values

Through the citizenship education curriculum, students are introduced to the basic principles of democracy which are the foundation of the Indonesian government system. They learn about the importance of equal rights, freedom of expression, and respect for human rights as essential values in building a just and democratic society. Apart from that, students are also taught about the importance of political participation as a form of popular sovereignty, as well as ways to implement it effectively. This helps form a participatory

attitude among the younger generation, where they are not only spectators, but also actors who play a role in the decision-making process relating to the life of society and the country.

Furthermore, understanding the values of justice and freedom taught through citizenship education also plays a role in forming students' critical and tolerant attitudes in democracy. They are invited to consider various points of view and diverse interests, and understand that diversity in political and cultural views is normal in a democracy. Thus, citizenship education not only provides knowledge, but also forms the mental attitudes needed to maintain and strengthen democratic values in society. This is important to create an inclusive social environment, where every individual is valued and has equal opportunities to participate in the country's development in accordance with firm democratic principles.

3. Teaching the Rights and Obligations of Citizens

Citizenship education has a crucial role in equipping students with a deep understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens. Students are taught about basic rights, such as the right to express opinions, assemble and elect leaders in accordance with firm democratic principles. They are also prepared to understand the importance of these rights as an integral part of democratic life and as the foundation of a just system of governance. In addition, through citizenship education, students are also given a deep understanding of the obligations attached to citizen status. They are taught to obey the law, respect the rights of others, and contribute to the development of the country through active participation in social, economic and political activities.

Furthermore, the understanding given to students about their rights and obligations as citizens also plays an important role in shaping their character. Students are prepared to become individuals who are responsible, caring, and involved in the social and political life of society. By being aware of the rights they have, students are encouraged to become active and critical agents of change in fighting for their own rights and the rights of others. Apart from that, understanding obligations as citizens also helps students to understand that their existence in a country is not only individual, but also carries a moral responsibility to participate in safeguarding and advancing common interests. Thus, citizenship education not only provides knowledge, but also shapes students' attitudes and character which are the foundation for building a better and more just society.

4. Encourage Active Participation in Society

Through civic education learning, students are not only asked to understand the basic principles of democracy and the rights and obligations as citizens, but are also encouraged to apply this knowledge in their daily lives. They are taught to be active agents of change and care about the social and political issues around them. With a deep understanding of their rights as citizens, students are given the confidence and encouragement to participate in social, humanitarian and advocacy activities aimed at improving the welfare of society as a whole. This includes participation in community empowerment programs, social activities, as well as advocacy efforts for greater rights and interests.

Apart from that, through citizenship education, students are also trained to develop attitudes of empathy and solidarity towards others. They are given an understanding of the importance of caring for the social, economic and political conditions of society, and are directed to find solutions to various problems faced by society. By being involved in social and humanitarian activities, students not only help improve the conditions of society in concrete ways, but also shape their character as individuals who are caring, responsible and empathetic to the needs of others. This is an investment in forming a generation that has high social awareness and is ready to become future leaders who are able to answer complex challenges in global society.

CONCLUSION

Citizenship education has a very important role in forming the foundations of nationalism and democracy in Indonesia. Through citizenship education, students are introduced to the basic values of Pancasila, history and Indonesian culture, which helps strengthen national identity and foster a sense of patriotism and awareness of national unity. Apart from that, students are also taught about the principles of democracy, human rights, political participation, as well as the values of justice and freedom, which form a participatory, critical and tolerant attitude in democracy in society. Citizenship education also equips students with an understanding of the rights and obligations as citizens, including the rights to express opinions, assemble, and vote as well as the obligation to obey the law, respect the rights of others, and contribute to the development of the country. By studying citizenship education, students are encouraged to become active members of society and care about social and political issues, as well as being involved in social, humanitarian and advocacy activities aimed at improving the condition of society as a whole. In conclusion, citizenship education is an important foundation in forming the character and positive attitudes of Indonesian citizens, who are ready to contribute to building a more inclusive, democratic and just society. By carrying out the role and function of citizenship education effectively, Indonesia has the potential to produce a young generation who is tough, responsible, and able to respond to the challenges of the times with a progressive and open-minded attitude.

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